

COST

The VEP is free to veterans who are selected. Instruction, materials, travel expenses, lodging, and meals for the boot camp are provided at no cost. Expenses are underwritten by sponsors and private donors, with operations and program development provided by the UND Center for Innovation Foundation.

ELIGIBILITY

VEP serves veterans who meet the following three requirements:

- ➔ Have been separated from active duty service (or are currently in the administrative process of separating) with an honorable discharge.
- ➔ Are identified as disabled by the Veteran's Administration or Department of Defense based on a service-connected disability, (or) are "service distinguished" based on exemplary military conduct.
- ➔ Demonstrate an intense interest in entrepreneurship and small business ownership/management.

APPLICATION

The VEP application process is selective, reflecting the unique opportunity and valuable resources offered to eligible veterans. Successful candidates will demonstrate a strong interest in entrepreneurship and venture creation, the motivation to own and operate a business, and a high likelihood of active participation and completion of the entire VEP program.

Request an Application:

UND Center for Innovation Foundation
(701) 777-3132
NDVEP@innovators.net

Apply Online:
www.ndvep.com

Application Deadline:
July 29, 2016

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

UND is the state's oldest and largest University, with nearly 15,000 students and 225+ fields of study. The state's flagship research university, UND has a reputation for research and scholarship in health sciences, energy and the environment, aerospace, and entrepreneurship. With 3,000 courses, nearly 40 online degree programs, and 84 graduate education programs; UND has more offerings than any higher education institution in the state. UND's diverse student body represents all 50 states and over 60 countries. UND is one of the top 100 doctoral research universities in the United States and one of only 47 public universities in the nation with both accredited graduate schools of law and medicine. UND is recognized as one of the nation's top military-friendly schools and is ranked third for its online programs.

UND SCHOOL OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Started in 2014 and graduating from a nationally-ranked entrepreneur program, the UND School of Entrepreneurship breaks away from the traditional business lecture-based classroom experience in favor of a more hands-on and experiential learning experience. The faculty have designed a program to equip students with a comprehensive set of entrepreneurial skills, along with a strong business foundation provided by the College of Business & Public Administration core courses. The program focuses on reasoning, creativity, testing, and critical thinking skills valued by the most successful entrepreneurs and companies in business today. With degree opportunities in entrepreneurship, industrial technology, graphic design technology, and information systems and business communications, the School of Entrepreneurship offers many options for students seeking flexibility with a strong skill set in their studies.

UND CENTER FOR INNOVATION FOUNDATION

The UND Center for Innovation Foundation was among the first entrepreneur outreach centers in the nation when formed in 1984. The Center for Innovation provides assistance to innovators, entrepreneurs, and researchers to launch new ventures, commercialize new technologies, and secure access to capital from private and public sources. It is one of the premier venture development organizations in the United States, and has been ranked as one of the top entrepreneur centers in the nation by such entities as Entrepreneur magazine, NBIA, SSTI, EDA and SBA. The Center has received 15 national and international awards for excellence, and is one of just six entrepreneur centers nationwide that has been featured by the Regional Innovation Acceleration Network (RIAN) for best practices and outstanding performance of venture development organizations. The UND Center for Innovation Foundation serves as a link between successful entrepreneurs and the Center, supporting initiatives of the UND Center for Innovation and School of Entrepreneurship.



== VETERANS ==
== ENTREPRENEURSHIP ==
== PROGRAM ==

AUGUST 22, 2016
Online instruction begins

OCTOBER 22-29, 2016
University of North Dakota
Center for Innovation
Grand Forks, ND

Center for Innovation

IMAGINE " BELIEVE " CREATE



Edson and Margaret Larson
FOUNDATION


The Dakota Foundation



Presented by UND Center for
Innovation Foundation

In partnership with the University of Florida,
Oklahoma State University and
the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga

A UNIQUE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM FOR AMERICA'S HEROES

The Veterans Entrepreneurship Program (VEP)

Open to service disabled veterans and those who have uniquely distinguished themselves in the military, the VEP is designed for those interested in starting a venture or growing an existing business.

VEP includes hands-on learning, personalized interaction, and exposure to inspiring role models. Most importantly, VEP participants will learn how to apply the principles and tools they gain to current or potential businesses. A team of world-class faculty, distinguished entrepreneurs and industry experts work closely with delegates, providing a challenging, interactive and informative experience.

For veterans with service-related disabilities, access to quality entrepreneurial training programs can be a challenge. The VEP helps make the transition from military life to the entrepreneurial world a successful one, supporting the men and women who have paid a price for our freedom.

A person can be as great as he wants to be. If you believe in yourself and have the courage, the determination, the dedication, the competitive drive, and if you are willing to sacrifice the little things in life and pay the price for the things that are worthwhile, it can be done. – Vince Lombardi

The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it. – General Norman Schwarzkopf

VEP SPECIFICS

The heart of the VEP is an intense, eight-day training program at the University of North Dakota Center for Innovation covering areas critical for new and early stage venture success. These eight days are preceded by a five-week self study component and are followed by an eight-month period of mentorship and online peer-to-peer networking.

PHASE I - Online

Concept Development and Self Study, August 22-September 26, 2016

The initial five-week period includes a self-study curriculum with online discussion and assessment moderated by entrepreneurship faculty. Delegates develop business concepts and prepare for the October boot camp. Those with existing businesses will understand and shape relevant venture issues.

PHASE II

VEP Boot Camp, October 22-29, 2016, at UND

Comparable to a military boot camp, this eight-day residency in Grand Forks, ND, is rigorous and demanding. The key features are hands-on learning and interaction with faculty, guest entrepreneurs, business experts, and peer delegates. The boot camp exposes participants to the nuts and bolts of business ownership through experiential workshops and lessons from world-class faculty representing nationally ranked programs around the country.

PHASE III

Mentoring and Venture Development, November 11, 2016 - May 31, 2017

Delegates are provided with eight months of ongoing mentorship and online networking. This phase gives delegates feedback specific to their ventures and offers extended hands-on learning which is critical to success.

VEP AT UND

Application Deadline is July 29, 2016

All applications must be received by midnight on July 29, 2016.

August 12, 2016

Applicants are notified of admission status on a rolling basis, with a final notification to all applicants by this date.

August 22 - September 26, 2016

PHASE I: Online self-study and business concept/ issues development.

October 22-29, 2016

PHASE II: VEP Entrepreneurship Boot Camp, UND Center for Innovation, Grand Forks, ND.

November 11, 2016 - May 31, 2017

PHASE III: Mentoring, business development support, and online peer-to-peer networking.

SAMPLE TOPICS:

BUSINESS CONCEPTS:

Are the ideas viable?

BUSINESS PLANS: Are they necessary? How is a helpful plan developed?

FUNDING: How much is needed? How is it accessed?

MARKETING: How are markets defined and reached?

ACCOUNTING: What does an entrepreneur need to make smart decisions?

OPERATIONS: What are they keys to service delivery, cost controls and supplies?

HUMAN RESOURCES: What are the challenges of hiring, firing and outsourcing?

LEGAL ISSUES: When is a lawyer needed?

...and much more!



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